

Chief, Requirements Branch, St/I

11 April 1960

Chief, Geographic Research

COMINT Requirements List (CRL)

1. It is admittedly difficult to give a completely satisfactory priority rating to 410 items which are directed in general to one broad problem. It is possible, however, to place individual items in their proper general area of such a listing.

2. The GRA is disturbed by the treatment given to one item in which it has a vital interest. We wonder if the people making up this list are aware of the futility of developing hardware when we don't know the true position of the targets against which the hardware is to be employed. A large number of the items listed deal with items which would give us early warning of impending attack, but these only enable us to say, "It's coming that-a-way", and "It came from there". Are we going to be in a position where our retaliatory effort will be aimed with a "I hope it's that-a-way"? If there is any one thing about which we have little real information, it is that about the location of targets with respect to our own launch sites. The development of knowledge in the fields listed in what is Item #155 is of primary concern if we are to launch a missile with any adequate degree of assurance that it will not be expended futilely in some wheat field.

3. As presently worded, Item #155 expresses only an interest in the degree of Sino-Soviet Bloc knowledge of targets in the West, something to which they have relatively free and open access. It is strongly requested that this item be repositioned within the upper fifty items in the CRL and reworded as follows:

Soviet and CHICOM activities and personnel engaged in geologic, geodetic, and gravimetric surveys; mapping and hydrographic charting activities throughout the world in order to improve United States capabilities in positioning targets within the Sino-Soviet Bloc with respect to its launch sites.

If by any miscarriage it is left in its present position, it must still be reworded.

Distribution:

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